



Ripley Parish Council

31st January 2011

The Review Officer (Surrey)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Pattern of Electoral Divisions in Surrey

Ripley is included in the Horsleys division and has been ably served by Councillor Bill Barker for many years. The Parish Council wishes to stay within the same division and has links to the other Parish councils within the Horsleys division, meeting about 3 times a year to discuss common issues. Ripley Parish Council supported Ockham at the public inquiry held in September 2009 into the planning application for a composting facility on Wisley Airfield.

The electorate figures for 2010 show that each councillor should represent 10,587 electors. In 2010 the Horsleys has 9622 electors which is within the 10% variance allowed. However the projected figures for 2016 show that each councillor should represent 11,076 electors. The projected figure for the Horsleys is 9855 electors which is outside the 10% variance (9968). Ockham Parish is expected to decline in the number of electors by 2016. Is this based on information or an error in the data?

Ripley Parish is predicted to increase by 30 electors. The actual increase is likely to be greater than this because planning approval was given by Guildford Borough Council in November 2010 for 9 2 bedroom homes to be built on Newark Lane (10/P/01088 & 10/P/01089). A development of at least 50 properties is also hoping to get planning permission shortly at White Hart Court (behind the High Street) replacing former sheltered accommodation which was closed in 2007. There will be a mix of property sizes. Taking these 2 developments in Ripley into account will bring the Horsleys division nearer to the required number of electors.

The Horsleys division is bounded on three sides by the external District Borough boundary which cannot be altered. There is no obvious way that the remaining boundary can be changed without disturbing neighbouring community patterns.

Ripley Parish Council would like it to be noted that it is the boundary for the Parliamentary Constituency which causes dissatisfaction amongst the electorate in Ripley. Ripley is in the Mole Valley Parliamentary constituency but has no links with Mole Valley. Residents of Ripley look to Guildford as the nearest large town for shopping, transport links, secondary schooling etc. Accordingly they wish to be represented by a Guildford MP who understands the local issues. It is hard for the MP for Mole Valley, Sir Paul Beresford, to get involved in matters affecting the Guildford area.

Yours sincerely


Alison Jones (Mrs)
Ripley Parish Clerk